

8-19-71

PLAINTEXT

NITEL

TO SACS, WASHINGTON FIELD
NEW YORK
ST. LOUIS
BALTIMORE
ALEXANDRIA

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR, SPECIAL INQUIRY, BUDED AUGUST TWENTYTHREE
NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

(BUREAU DEADLINE)

THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED EXTREMELY EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION
OF SCHORR WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT,
POSITION NOT STATED. DO NOT INDICATE WHITE HOUSE INTEREST TO
PERSONS CONTACTED.

SCHORR, RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTATOR, BORN AUGUST
THIRTYONE, NINETEEN SIXTEEN, NEW YORK CITY. SINCE NINETEEN
SIXTY HE HAS BEEN CHIEF, COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NEWS
BUREAU, GERMANY, CENTRAL EUROPE. SEE "WHO'S WHO", VOLUME THREE
SIX, PAGE TWO ZERO ONE EIGHT, FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND DATA.

FILES OF IDENTIFICATION DIVISION CONTAIN FINGERPRINT CARD
SUBMITTED RE SCHORR BY U. S. ARMY INDUCTION STATION, NEW YORK
CITY, DECEMBER NINE, NINETEEN FIFTY THREE, UNDER ARMY SERIAL
NUMBER FOUR TWO ZERO FIVE NINE ZERO ONE THREE. FINGERPRINT

NITEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD
RE: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

CARD SUBMITTED BY U. S. SECRET SERVICE MAY TWENTY EIGHT,
NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE, LISTED HIS ADDRESS AS ONE SIX FOUR ZERO
RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D. C.

BUFILES INDICATE IN AUGUST, NINETEEN FORTYTWO, SCHORR
EMPLOYED BY NETHERLANDS INDIES NEWS AGENCY, FIFTY ROCKEFELLER
PLAZA, NEW YORK CITY. IN NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN WFO ADVISED THAT
FILES OF PASSPORT OFFICE, STATE DEPARTMENT, INDICATED SCHORR'S
FATHER WAS DECEASED AND MOTHER, TILLIE GODINGER SCHORR, RESIDES
ONE THREE EIGHT SEVEN TESSUP AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY OBTAIN COMPLETE BACKGROUND DATA RE
SCHORR, INCLUDING IDENTITIES AND LOCATIONS OF ALL CLOSE
RELATIVES, AND SET OUT LEADS AT ONCE. MAKE CERTAIN ALL PERIODS
OF ADULT LIFE ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. SET OUT NECESSARY LEADS BY
PHONE, ADVISING BUREAU BY TELETYPE. SUBMIT RESULTS OF INVESTI-
GATION IN TELETYPE SUMMARY ON OR BEFORE COB ON DEADLINE IN
SUFFICIENT DETAIL FOR DISSEMINATION. NOTE: SCHORR IS NOW IN U.S.
DUE TO URGENT NATURE OF REQUEST, IT IS IMPERATIVE BUDED
BE MET WITHOUT FAIL. NO DELAY WILL BE TOLERATED.

SPIN.

8-18-71

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAT BONN, GERMANY
FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR, SPECIAL INQUIRY, EDDED AUGUST TWENTYTHREE,
NEXT, WITHOUT FAIL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS REQUESTED EXTREMELY EXPEDITE APPLICANT--
TYPE INVESTIGATION OF SCHORR, WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT, POSITION NOT STATED. DO NOT INDICATE
WHITE HOUSE INTEREST TO PERSONS CONTACTED.

BORN AUGUST THIRTYONE, NINETEEN SIXTEEN, NEW YORK CITY.
SINCE NINETEEN SIXTY HE HAS BEEN CHIEF, COLUMBIA BROADCASTING
SYSTEM NEWS BUREAU, GERMANY, CENTRAL EUROPE. CURRENT ISSUE OF
"WHO'S WHO" LISTS SCHORR'S HOME ADDRESS AS HEERSTRASSE ONE ZERO
TWO, BAD GODESBERG, GERMANY, AND OFFICE ADDRESS AS KOBLENZERSTRASSE
TWO SEVEN ZERO, BONN, GERMANY. HE LISTS EMPLOYMENT WITH CBS
SINCE NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE. WAS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, CBS
NEWS, AND ALSO HAD SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND
^{EX-108} EUROPE FROM NINETEEN FIFTYTHREE TO NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE. HE
REOPENED CBS MOSCOW BUREAU IN NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE AND HAD
ROVING ASSIGNMENTS IN U. S. AND EUROPE FROM NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT
TO NINETEEN SIXTY.

CABLEGRAM TO LEGAT BONN
RE: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

SCHORR WAS NEWS EDITOR, ANETA (NETHERLANDS) NEWS AGENCY
IN NEW YORK CITY, NINETEEN FORTYONE TO NINETEEN FORTYEIGHT.

"WHO'S WHO" INDICATES HE WAS "DECORATED OFFICER ORANGE NASSAU
(NETHERLANDS) NINETEEN FIFTYFIVE."

CONTACT SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH SCHORR AND WHO CAN FURNISH
INFORMATION REGARDING HIS CHARACTER, REPUTATION, LOYALTY, AND
ASSOCIATES. MAKE CHECKS OF ANY APPROPRIATE RECORDS, INCLUDING
ARREST RECORDS. NO NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE
CONDUCTED; HOWEVER, SCHORR'S PRESENT RESIDENCE SHOULD BE VERIFIED.

(SUBMIT
(CABLEGRAM)) —— SUCAB RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL FOR
DISSEMINATION BY COB ON DEADLINE WITHOUT FAIL.

SPIN.

SPECIAL
(INQUIRY)

(CLOSE OF
BUSINESS)

August 20, 1971

Mr. Lawrence M. Higby
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Higby:

I am enclosing a memorandum of what our files show on Daniel Louis Schorr. I have also initiated a complete investigation of Schorr and, as soon as it is completed, I will forward it to you.

Very truly yours,

(ATTACHMENT CONSISTS OF
ONE PARAGRAPH AND IS
NOT BEING INCLUDED)

Enclosure

JEH:RM

8-20-71

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS WASHINGTON FIELD
NEW YORK
ALEXANDRIA

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

DANIEL LOUIS SCHORE, SPECIAL INQUIRY

REBUTEL AUGUST ONE NINE, LAST.

DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION IMMEDIATELY.

8-20-71

CODE

CABLEGRAM

URGENT

TO LEGAT BONN, GERMANY
FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

DANIEL LOUIS SCHOOR, SPECIAL INQUIRY.

REBUCAB AUGUST NINETEEN, LAST. DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION
IMMEDIATELY. SUCAB SUMMARY OF ANY INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gale

DATE: 8/20/71

FROM : L. H. Martin

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Reference is made to my memoranda today regarding reaction of CBS personnel to our investigation of Schorr, which has been requested by Lawrence M. Higby at the White House.

In accordance with the Director's instructions, [redacted] called Higby in San Clemente at 4:45 p.m. today and advised him of the reaction our Agents received in both Washington and New York from CBS personnel, and particularly the fact that, according to John Sharnick, Chief, CBS New York, Schorr had advised him that he had no idea he was being considered for any appointment with the Federal Government and that he had requested the investigation be discontinued until he had some information as to the position involved.

Higby advised [redacted] that in view of these developments the FBI should discontinue its investigation until we hear further from Higby.

ACTION: For information. If further information is received from Higby, you will be immediately advised.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gale [initials]

DATE: 8/20/71

FROM : L. H. Martin [initials]

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Previous memos have indicated we are conducting an expedite Special Inquiry concerning Schorr, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) correspondent, at the request of the President.

At 3:15 p.m. today [redacted] telephoned [redacted] and advised that New York has just contacted John Sharnick, producer of documentaries for CBS, New York, regarding Schorr. Sharnick was very cooperative, but stated he had just talked to Schorr on the telephone prior to the interview. He stated that Schorr told him he had no idea that he was being considered for any appointment with the Federal Government. Schorr also told Sharnick he had requested that the investigation be discontinued until he had some information as to the position involved. (No such request has been received by us.) Sharnick also said that Schorr told him he was embarrassed by the contacts with his CBS colleagues by Bureau Agents in conducting the investigation.

Sharnick advised he would be happy to furnish any information he knows concerning Schorr, but stated that until he received a "go ahead" from Schorr, he would make no comments concerning him.

ACTION: If approved, [redacted] will contact Lawrence M. Higby, San Clemente, to determine if this case should be continued.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gale [initials]

DATE: 8/20/71

FROM : L. H. Martin [initials]

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

P My previous memo 8/20/71 set forth the results of a check of Bureau files concerning captioned individual, concerning whom we are conducting an expedite investigation at the request of the President.

It was indicated that Schorr is an employee of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and since 1960 had been Chief of the CBS News Bureau, Germany and Central Europe, with headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

Investigation this morning indicates Schorr has been transferred back to the United States and is presently residing in Washington, D. C., with his family. He is apparently assigned to the CBS Washington Bureau.

The Washington Field Office has advised that contact was made earlier this morning with William Small, Chief, CBS Washington Bureau, who was informed that an investigation was being conducted concerning Mr. Schorr for a position of responsibility with the Federal Government. No mention was made of the White House and, of course, we are not aware of the position involved. Small stated he was shocked to hear this as he had no indication that Schorr was being considered for any Federal position. He said he did not want to lose Schorr and refused to furnish any information concerning him unless he was informed concerning the details of the position involved. Of course, he was furnished no such information.

Washington Field has advised that, due to the potential embarrassment involved, it is not felt that Small's subordinates should be interviewed concerning Schorr. Also, in all probability, Small's attitude is now known to his subordinates who would be reluctant to talk.

ACTION: Washington Field was instructed that for the time being no further contact should be made with the CBS Washington Bureau. Gertrude Brown in Mr. Alexander Butterfield's office at the White House was advised by [initials] concerning Small's comments.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. C. D. Brennan ✓✓✓

DATE: 8/23/71

FROM : W. R. Wannallup ✓✓✓

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Reference is made to Martin to Gale memoranda dated 8/20/71 advising of the negative reaction of CBS personnel to interviews concerning the subject. This reaction was furnished by _____ to Lawrence Higby at San Clemente on Friday afternoon, 8/20/71, and he asked that the investigation be discontinued until we hear further from him.

This afternoon Higby called _____ from San Clemente and said the investigation should be cancelled; however, requested that all information developed by the Bureau to date concerning Schorr be furnished his office. He was advised this would be done.

The Special Investigative Division has been advised and will direct the field to immediately submit results of its investigation up to the time the case was discontinued. This information will be summarized and be furnished to Higby.

ACTION:

For information.

F B I

Date: 8/24/71

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO

DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

SPI

BUDED 8/23/71 w/f

ReButeletypes 8/20/71 and BA teletype 8/20/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau, is one copy of a biographical resume concerning the appointee furnished by the appointee on 8/20/71.

The following investigation was conducted prior to Bureau instructions to discontinue instant investigation.

August 20, 1971

BY LIAISON

Mr. Lawrence H. Higby
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Higby:

On August 19, 1971, you requested an investigation of Mr. Daniel Louis Schorr. On August 20, 1971, you advised that the requested investigation should be discontinued.

In accordance with your request, enclosed herewith is a summary memorandum containing the results of investigation concerning Mr. Schorr, which had been conducted prior to its discontinuance.

Sincerely yours,

(ENCLOSURE CONSISTS OF
RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION
AND IS NOT BEING INCLUDED)

Enclosure

4:18 PM

November 10, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

MR. FELET

MR. ROSEN

MR. BISHOP

MR. CLEVELAND

Honorable H. R. Haldeman, Assistant to the President, called. He said that as I may know, the Washington Post is cranking up a story on an FBI investigation of CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System) correspondent Daniel Schorr and apparently the Bureau has confirmed to Ron Clawson, a reporter for the Washington Post, that such an investigation was ordered by the White House. I commented I would doubt that because my orders are to not give Clawson the time of day. Mr. Haldeman said he would be surprised if we had, but Clawson claims he does have this confirmation from the Bureau and in any event he is going, apparently with the story that the White House is investigating this reporter. Mr. Haldeman said that I may recall that there was a request for a check on him back in the middle of August and obviously the White House would have no useful purpose in getting any more publicity on it than is necessary so what he wanted to do was be sure we did not supply Clawson or any of the rest of the press with anything.

I told Mr. Haldeman my standing orders are not to give the time of day to him and I will check on it right away. Mr. Haldeman said that Ron Ziegler, Press Secretary, is concerned that they are going to try to create a repression of newsmen type of thing. I said that is the usual line. Mr. Haldeman said he thought they would slough it off over there and if they ask any questions, say they would not have anything to say as obviously information is sought on individuals at various times for various reasons such as appointments, routine checks, et cetera, and not have anything more to say and he assumes that is the position the Bureau would take. I said we will not have anything to say and I would check and let him know, as it may have been confirmed by the Public Information Office of the Department of Justice.

4:28 PM

I tried to reach Mr. Haldeman at the White House and he was out of the office, so his assistant, Mr. Rigby, called and said he was with Mr. Haldeman at the time he had first called me. I told Mr. Rigby I would give the information to him.

November 10, 1971

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Felt, Rosen, Bishop, Cleveland

I told Mr. Fligby that this afternoon, Clawson, contacted Mr. Bishop, one of the Assistant Directors who is in charge of public relations, and stated he wished to be advised if the FBI had conducted an investigation of Daniel Schorr, a TV news employee of CBS, at the request of the White House sometime during August, 1971. Mr. Bishop told Clawson it would not be possible for the FBI to make any comment on this inquiry whatsoever and at this point, Clawson advised Bishop the FBI may not realize it but the FBI had been used by someone at the White House in connection with the investigation of Schorr. Clawson stated he had talked to a number of people who had been contacted by the FBI in August, 1971, in connection with an investigation of Schorr and these people informed him the FBI was investigating Schorr because he was being considered for a high Government position. Clawson stated two of the people that told him this were Dr. Frank Stanton, President of CBS, and Richard Salant, President of CBS News Division. Clawson stated he had been informed by a source in the White House that Schorr was never being considered for appointment to a Government position and that the individual who made the request of the FBI was aware of this but he had asked the FBI to conduct an investigation allegedly in connection with possible employment but actually for the purpose of getting background information on Schorr in an expedite manner. I said Mr. Bishop advised Clawson the FBI would have no comment to make.

I continued that a review of the files reveals that we were asked on August 10, 1971, to make an investigation of Schorr and we sent a wire to the field accordingly. I said we interviewed officials of CBS at New York and they expressed great surprise that Schorr was under investigation and requested it be discontinued as Schorr did not know what position he was being considered for. I said we brought this to his, Fligby's, attention at San Clemente and he ordered that we discontinue the investigation unless we heard something further. Mr. Fligby said that was right and they have not done anything since then.

said for some time my orders have been that he is not to be given the time of day on anything.

Mr. Fligby asked if there was any indication who at the White House confirmed this. I said this memorandum had just come into me after

November 10, 1971

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Felt, Rosen, Bishop, Cleveland

Mr. Haldeman called says that Clawson said the Bureau was being used by someone in the White House and he had been informed by a source in the White House, name not given, that Schorr was never being considered for a Government position and the individual who made the request of the FBI was aware of this but asked the FBI to conduct the investigation allegedly for a possible Government position but actually to get background information on Schorr in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Higby thanked me and said he would get this information to Mr. Haldeman as soon as he returned and if Mr. Haldeman had any more questions, he would get back to me.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

3:47 PM

November 12, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. FELT
MR. ROSEN
MR. BISCHOP
MR. CLEVELAND

Honorable H. R. Haldeman, Assistant to the President, called. He said that as I probably knew, Senator Ervin said his subcommittee was going to investigate the (Daniel) Schorr intimidation business. I said I had not seen that, but I saw that Congressman Cellar had written the Attorney General. Mr. Haldeman read the item which indicated that Senator Ervin had instructed the staff to invite Schorr and the two White House aides to testify and he assumed they would come and before the FBI investigates, the Government should find out if the person would take the position.

Mr. Haldeman continued that the President is going to have a press conference and if he is asked the question, he was going to reply along the following lines: That he understands Mr. Schorr was being considered for a public affairs position in the area of environmental matters and there was a routine FBI investigation, but there was nothing detrimental; that the position was not offered; that no one can object to an FBI check being given them the same as to anyone else and the only objection seems to be that he was not asked beforehand if he were interested and that objection, to the President, makes sense and accordingly he has ordered that whenever anyone is being considered for a Government position, he be informed beforehand and if he is not interested, consideration would be dropped; that there was no intimidation nor will there be and to make sure, he has directed this additional safeguard be instituted.

I told Mr. Haldeman I thought that was a good statement. Mr. Haldeman says it does put the burden that before any check is run on anybody, he has to be notified, but he did not think that harms them any. I agreed.

I told Mr. Haldeman I thought he may have received my letter that I sent him today and he said he had not seen it as yet. I told him there was in this Washington Post article (by Ken Clawson) yesterday the statement that we

JEH:edn (9)

November 12, 1971

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Felt, Rosen, Bishop, Cleveland

told (Richard) Salant, President of CBS, that Schorr was being considered for a very important position and the White House asked us to expedite the investigation. I said I ran this down and found it is untrue as our Agent did not make the statement and we have a standing order that we are not to identify the source of the inquiry for a personnel investigation. I said we do not tell anyone, not even our Agents, that they are being considered, whether by Interior or the White House.

Mr. Haldeman said that now before the Bureau is asked to make a check, their responsibility is to notify the individual he is under consideration for the position and an investigation is being instituted. I said I thought it is wise because if we begin to make inquiries, someone tells the man anyway and there is nothing lost and you are not trying to hide anything. I said I thought it was a good statement.

Mr. Haldeman thanked me.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Felt

DATE: 11/10/71

FROM : T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Ken Clawson, a reporter for the "Washington Post," who is well known to the Bureau, telephoned Bishop on the afternoon of 11/10/71. He stated that he wished to be advised if the FBI had conducted an investigation of Schorr, who is a television news employee of the Columbia Broadcasting System, at the request of the White House sometime during August, 1971. Bishop told Clawson that it would not be possible for the FBI to make a comment on his inquiry. At this point Clawson advised Bishop that the FBI might not realize it but the FBI had been "used" by someone in the White House in connection with its investigation of Schorr. Clawson stated that he had talked to a number of people who had been contacted by the FBI in August, 1971, in connection with an FBI investigation of Schorr and that these people had informed him that the FBI was investigating Schorr because he was being considered for a high government position. Clawson stated that two of the people who had told him this were Dr. Frank Stanton, the President of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and Richard Salant, the President of the CBS News Division. Clawson said that he has been informed by a source in the White House that Schorr was never being considered for appointment to a government position and that the individual who had made the request of the FBI was aware of this but had asked the FBI to conduct an investigation, allegedly in connection with possible employment, but actually for the purpose of getting background information on Schorr in an expedited manner.

Bishop advised Clawson that the FBI would have no comment to make concerning his information.

A review of Bureau files reflects that on August 19, 1971, the Bureau initiated a special inquiry investigation on Schorr and the teletype sent to interested offices began as follows: "The President has requested

Bishop to Felt memorandum
Re: "Daniel Louis Schorr"

extremely expedite investigation of Schorr who is being considered for Presidential appointment, position not stated. Do not indicate White House interest to persons contacted." The Bureau files also reflect that the request for the investigation apparently emanated from Lawrence M. Higby at the White House. On August 20, 1971, during the course of our investigation, our New York and Washington Field Offices were advised by officials of CBS, who were contacted during the course of the investigation, that Schorr had informed them that he had never applied for a position in the Federal Government, was surprised that he was being considered for such position, and that he had requested that the investigation be discontinued until he had some information as to the position involved. This information was brought to the attention of Lawrence H. Higby of the White House, who was then at San Clemente, California, on 8/20/71 and Mr. Higby instructed that the investigation be discontinued until we heard further from him. The offices involved in the investigation were immediately instructed to discontinue the investigation.

On the afternoon of 8/23/71, Mr. Higby called _____ from San Clemente and said that the investigation should be cancelled but that all information developed to date concerning Schorr should be furnished to Higby's office. A summary reflecting the investigation that had been conducted was furnished to Higby by cover letter dated 8/26/71.

RECOMMENDATION

None. for information.

November 12, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

D.C.
You, of course, have noted within the last few days a series of articles by Ken V. Clawson, a Washington Post Staff Writer, about the FBI investigation of one Daniel Schorr, a CBS correspondent assigned to the White House.

I was advised by Mr. H. R. Haldeman the day before Clawson's first article appeared that such an article was forthcoming with the statement that the FBI had confirmed that such an investigation had been made. I told Mr. Haldeman I doubted very much that this was a fact for I had issued standing orders that any inquiry by Clawson upon any subject should be answered with "no comment" in view of our past experience with him.

I then made a personal check and found that Clawson had contacted an Assistant Director in the Bureau who had refused to make any comment whatsoever about the proposed Clawson article on Schorr. I promptly advised Mr. Haldeman of this situation.

Clawson, in an article appearing in the Washington Post for November 11 made the statement that an Agent of this Bureau told Mr. Richard Salant, President of CBS, that Schorr had been proposed for a "very important job" and the White House had asked the FBI to expedite the investigation. I was confident that this was typical of Clawson's loose reporting because I have a standing order within the Bureau, both at the Seat of Government and in the field, that we are not at any time to identify the source of any request made of us for an investigation by any other branch of the Government.

I promptly communicated with the Assistant Director in charge of our New York Office, who contacted the Agent who interviewed Salant and the Agent emphatically denies that he made any such statement to Salant. I have likewise advised Mr. Haldeman of this development.

JEH:EDM (4)

Memorandum for the Attorney General

November 12, 1971

When we were originally requested to investigate Daniel Schorr last August by Mr. Higby, an assistant to Mr. Haldeman, it was indicated to us that he was being considered for an important position. There was no mention at any time relative to the White House being curious about the background of Schorr because of some unfavorable articles which he had written about the President and members of the White House staff. We promptly initiated the investigation and during the course of the investigation, we interviewed Mr. Richard Salant, President of CBS, as well as several other officials of CBS, all of whom expressed surprise that Schorr was being considered for some Government position and they requested that the investigation be discontinued since Schorr himself knew nothing about it. At the time I promptly communicated with Mr. Higby, who was then in San Clemente, California, with the President, and was instructed we should drop the investigation and make no further inquiries and this was done.

I have related the above in some detail because I noted in a morning ticker that Congressman Celler of New York has addressed a letter to you inquiring as to why Daniel Schorr was being investigated by the FBI.

Respectfully,

J. EDGAR HOOVER
John Edgar Hoover
Director

November 17, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. FELT
MR. BISCHOP

On November 12, 1971, Mr. Ronald L. Zeigler, Press Secretary to the President, telephoned me and stated there had just been a press meeting at the White House and that he understood that the UPI would carry a story to the effect that the President had said that the investigation of Daniel Schorr had been clumsily handled. Mr. Zeigler wanted to assure me that no such statement had been made by the President and the proposed story by the United Press would be inaccurate.

Mr. Zeigler did inform me that the President had stated that henceforth any person who is to be considered for an appointment requiring an investigation by the Bureau would be advised in advance that such an investigation would be made so that there could be no misunderstanding.

I thanked Mr. Zeigler for his call. S

Very truly yours,

J. E. H. REC 23

John Edgar Hoover
Director

JEH:EDM (7)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

DATE: 11-12-71

FROM : W. R. Wannall

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

On the afternoon of 11-12-71 Mr. John Dean, Counsel to the President, requested a meeting with _____ Dean advised that he is handling for The White House the matter of the FBI investigation of Daniel Schorr, and in this regard desired some information concerning the Bureau's handling of these investigations. He asked the following questions:

Was the investigation of Schorr a "full field" investigation? He was advised that it was initiated as a full field Special Inquiry investigation at the request of The White House, but in fact it was only partially completed as it was discontinued at the request of Larry Higby in Mr. Haldeman's office.

What type of "full field" investigations does the Bureau conduct? He was advised that we conduct full field investigations for sensitive positions with the Atomic Energy Commission, for Departmental applicants, under the Loyalty Program when Civil Service refers the cases to us because of substantial derogatory information and for several congressional committees on request.

Do cases arise where the subject of the investigation is not aware of the reason for the investigation prior to the time that it is initiated? He was advised that _____ could recall no specific instances, but it is true that occasionally after undertaking investigation, the subject advises the Bureau that he is not aware of the reason and that if it is for consideration of Government employment, he would not accept such a position. In such cases, The White House or other requesting agency is so advised and in many instances the investigation is discontinued.

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
Re: Daniel Louis Schorr
Special Inquiry - White House

How many people at the Bureau were aware of the White House request for an investigation of Schorr? He was advised that the chain of command ordering the investigation as well as the regular Agent and clerical personnel who handle the investigation would be aware of The White House request for a Special Inquiry investigation, that these personnel are under strict orders that they are not to disclose to anyone outside the Bureau The White House interest and these instructions were followed in this case.

Does the Bureau know who within the White House staff requests individual investigations? He was advised that all such requests are received from the office of Alex Butterfield and the Bureau is not advised who in The White House initiated the request or the position for which the person is being considered. The only information we receive is whether the investigation is for a Presidential appointment or a White House staff position. The latter is furnished as it affects the Bureau deadline in the case.

What would be the Bureau's position if a congressional committee investigating this incident sought information from the Bureau? He was advised that all inquiries received by the Bureau concerning investigations conducted at the request of The White House are referred to The White House. He was also advised that we have made no comment concerning this case and have no intention of doing so.

The meeting with Dean was completely amiable. He did not make or imply any criticism whatever of the Bureau's handling of this case, but was seeking information on how these matters are handled generally. It was, however, apparent from the discussion that someone at The White House got their signals mixed and requested a full field investigation when in fact, probably all they wanted was background information on Schorr and a check of Bureau files similar to that which has previously been requested by Haldeman's office on other news personalities.

Dean thanked [redacted] for the information and made no further request.

ACTION:

For information.

November 12, 1971

BY LIAISON

Honorable H. R. Haldeman
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

In Ken W. Clawson's column in the Washington Post for November 11th, he makes the statement that "an agent told Salant (President of CBS), who was suspicious of the reason for the probe, that Schorr had been proposed for a 'very important job' and the White House had asked the FBI to expedite the investigation."

This statement is characteristic of Clawson's loose reporting.

We have a standing order in the Bureau that no one is to disclose the source of the request for an investigation of personnel which may be requested by any other branch of the Government.

I have personally talked with the Assistant Director in charge of our New York Office, who, in turn, talked with the Agent who made the Schorr investigation last August. The Agent emphatically denies that he made any such statement as attributed to him by Clawson.

I wanted you to have this information so as to clear the air.

Sincerely,

Edgar

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cleveland

DATE: 12/17/71

FROM : L. H. Martin

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Schorr is the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) correspondent concerning whom the White House requested an investigation on 8/19/71 for a supposed Presidential appointment. The investigation was discontinued on the afternoon of 8/20/71 on White House instructions due to opposition to the inquiry by CBS personnel as well as a statement attributed to Schorr that he wanted the investigation discontinued. Since that time there has been much newspaper publicity inferring that the White House requested the investigation to intimidate Schorr as he had been critical of the Nixon Administration. This has been consistently denied by The White House which has indicated that Schorr is being considered for an appointment in the "environmental area."

This afternoon John Dean, Counsel to the President, requested _____ to orally furnish him information with regard to how early on the morning of 8/20/71 Schorr was aware that an investigation was being conducted concerning him. Mr. Dean said he also desired to have this information confirmed in writing later.

After checking with the Special Investigative Division, _____ advised Mr. Dean that this investigation was initiated on the evening of Thursday, 8/19/71. Several offices were involved, including Washington Field and New York. Mr. Schorr was telephonically contacted for an appointment at his Washington office by Washington Field early on Friday morning, 8/20/71, presumably around 8:30 or 9 o'clock. The investigating Agent informed him of the purpose for the call, telling him he was being considered for a position with the Federal Government. An appointment was made and the Agent proceeded to his office. Schorr was interviewed somewhere between 10 and 11 a.m., at which time he indicated surprise at being considered for such an appointment, but, nevertheless, furnished the necessary background data. Mr. Dean was appreciative.

Memorandum to Mr. Cleveland
Re: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

As a matter of information, it was not until later in the day that we learned of Schorr's opposition to the investigation, which led to checking with The White House, which discontinued the investigation.

ACTION

For information. Confirming letter to Mr. Dean is being prepared in line with the request.

December 20, 1971

BY LIAISON

Honorable John W. Dean III
Counsel to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dean:

The following confirms information orally furnished to you by _____ of this Bureau on December 17, 1971, concerning Mr. Daniel Louis Schorr.

The investigation of Mr. Schorr was initiated on the evening of Thursday, August 19, 1971, but no active inquiries were made until the morning of Friday, August 20, 1971. Several of our field divisions were involved, including Washington, D. C., and New York City. Mr. Schorr was telephonically contacted at approximately 8:30 a.m., August 20, 1971, at his Washington, D. C., office for an appointment to obtain necessary background data. He was informed of the purpose of the call and was advised he was being considered for a position with the Federal Government. An appointment was made and Mr. Schorr was interviewed between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. that day. Mr. Schorr indicated surprise at being considered for a Federal position but, nevertheless, furnished the necessary background data.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: *R* Mr. Bates

DATE: 12/30/71

FROM: G.H. Scatterday *645*

SUBJECT: DANIEL L. SCHORR
COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM
COMMENTATOR
NAME CHECK MATTER

Captioned individual is the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) correspondent who has been the recipient of voluminous publicity recently as a result of a request from the White House for the Bureau to conduct a full field investigation concerning him. The investigation was originally requested by Mr. Lawrence M. Higby at the White House and subsequently discontinued at his request following publicity concerning the investigation, including allegations that the White House had initiated the investigation to obtain information concerning Schorr although he was not actually being considered for a Government position. At the request of the White House, a summary of the investigation which was conducted was furnished to Mr. Higby on 8/26/71.

We are in receipt of a name check request from the National Agency Check Center on behalf of the Department of the Army, which is considering Schorr as a proposed guest for the 1972 National Strategy Seminar at the U.S. Army War College (this Seminar is an annual affair with invited guests).

Memo to Mr. Bates
Re: Daniel L. Schorr
Columbia Broadcasting System Commentator

In view of the extreme publicity and public interest which the Schorr case generated, it is believed the present request emanating from the Army should be handled by advising the Army that it may desire to submit its request to the White House.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the name check form be returned to the National Agency Check Center for the U.S. Army, referring them to the White House and making no comment concerning any investigation which we may have conducted. If approved, this action will be taken by the Name Check Section, General Investigative Division.

January 5, 1972

BY LIAISON

Honorable H. R. Haldeman
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Reference is made to my letter of November 12, 1971, in connection with the inquiry this Bureau conducted concerning Daniel L. Schorr, commentator for Columbia Broadcasting System.

We are now in receipt of a request from the Department of the Army for a check of our files concerning Mr. Schorr inasmuch as he is a proposed guest for the 1972 National Strategy Seminar at the United States Army War College.

In response to this request, we are making no comment concerning the investigation we conducted regarding Mr. Schorr and the Department of the Army is being referred to the White House.

Sincerely,

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cleveland *ifm*

DATE: 1/4/72

FROM : L. H. Martin *fm*

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

In connection with the attached article from *V* "Parade" of 1/2/72 regarding Schorr, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) correspondent, the Director has requested the facts concerning the request for our check of Schorr.

The investigation of Schorr was requested by Lawrence Higby of Mr. Haldeman's office at The White House on the evening of Thursday, 8/19/71. Higby telephoned from San Clemente requesting the investigation. Although the investigation was immediately opened to the field, no open inquiries were conducted until Friday morning, 8/20/71. During the morning and early afternoon both Washington Field and New York reported opposition to the investigation by CBS personnel both in Washington and New York. In the early afternoon, John Sharnick, CBS, New York, told us Schorr had just informed him that Schorr himself wanted the investigation discontinued as it was embarrassing to him and he had no idea that he was being considered for any appointment with the Federal Government. We immediately held up our inquiries at approximately 3 p.m., 8/20/71, and _____ called Higby in San Clemente and advised him of the reaction we were receiving. Higby told _____ the investigation should be discontinued, which was done. As can be seen, our investigation was only active for approximately seven hours. At Higby's request, the results of our incomplete investigation were furnished to him.

Since that time, there has been much newspaper publicity inferring that The White House requested the investigation to intimidate Schorr as he had been critical of the Administration. This has been consistently denied by The White House which has indicated that Schorr was being considered for appointment in the "environmental area."

Of possible interest, attached memo from Mr. Wannall to Mr. Miller dated 11/12/71 sets forth the results of a conference between _____ and John Dean, Counsel to the President,

Memorandum to Mr. Cleveland
Re: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR

concerning the Schorr investigation. As _____ indicates, it was apparent from the discussion that someone at The White House got his signals mixed and requested a full field investigation when all that was desired was background information on Schorr and a check of Bureau files.

ACTION

For the Director's information.

January 4, 1972

DANIEL L. SCHORR
Born: August 31, 1916
New York, New York

Reference is made to your request for a check of our files concerning the captioned individual, who is being considered as a proposed guest for the 1972 National Strategy Seminar at the U.S. Army War College.

In response to your request, you are referred to the White House.

Original and 1 - NACC-Army (National Strategy Seminar,
U.S. Army War College)
Request Received - 12/20/71

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO Mr. E. S. Miller

DATE: 1-27-72

FROM W. R. Wannall

SUBJECT:DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Reference is made to Wannall to Miller memorandum, 1-26-72, wherein it was recommended and approved that clear with The White House a letter to Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D-N.C.), concerning the Bureau's investigation, at the request of The White House, of Daniel Schorr, Columbia Broadcasting System Washington correspondent.

A copy of the proposed letter dated 1-27-72 was furnished on the afternoon of 1-26-72 to John W. Dean III, Counsel to the President. He was also furnished, at his request, a copy of Senator Ervin's incoming letter. On the evening of 1-26-72 Dean advised [redacted] that he had discussed this matter with H. R. Haldeman, Assistant to the President. Haldeman told Dean that he wanted to study this matter and might contact the Director regarding the correspondence. Dean in reviewing the material with [redacted] prior to his meeting with Haldeman had no suggested changes in the Bureau's letter to Ervin. This matter will be followed closely with [redacted] The White House.

ACTION:

For information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Cleveland

DATE: 1/26/72

FROM : L. H. Martin

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

Schorr is the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Washington correspondent concerning whom we initiated an investigation on 8/19/71 at the request of Lawrence Higby of The White House. The investigation was discontinued on White House instructions the following day, 8/20/71, when Schorr objected to the investigation. Since that time there has been much newspaper publicity inferring that The White House requested the investigation to intimidate Schorr as he had been critical of the Administration. This has been consistently denied by The White House which has indicated that Schorr was being considered for appointment in the "environmental area."

We have now received a letter from Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D.-N.C.) Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, concerning the Schorr investigation. Ervin asked under what authority we conducted the investigation, when it was begun and ended, who in The White House ordered it, how many people were interviewed, what type of information we were asked to get, the general nature of the investigation, and what happened to the records of the investigation.

He advised he wishes this material in connection with hearings concerning the relationship between Government and the press.

On 11/12/71 [redacted] had a conference with John Dean, Counsel to the President, regarding the Schorr case (memo attached) during which Dean specifically asked [redacted] what our position would be if a Congressional committee investigating this incident sought information from the Bureau. [redacted] informed him that all inquiries received by the Bureau concerning investigations conducted at the request of The White House are referred to The White House and we have made no comment concerning the Schorr case and have no intention of doing so. This was satisfactory with Dean.

Enclosures:

Memorandum to Mr. Cleveland
Re: Daniel Louis Schorr

It is noted that an article in the Washington Post on 11/13/71 indicated that "Initial reaction to Ervin's letter among White House sources was that the Administration would invoke executive privilege . This would deny Ervin his witnesses but would undoubtedly elicit a protest from the chairman."

In view of Senator Ervin's request for full details concerning this matter, however, it is felt that an appropriate letter should be forwarded to him which is responsive to his inquiries. Our relationship with the Senator has been very cordial in the past. The attached letter is being dated for Thursday, 1/27/72, inasmuch as the Director has indicated he intends to clear it with The White House and the Attorney General.

RECOMMENDATION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Senator Ervin.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

DATE: 1-26-72

FROM : W. R. Wannall,

SUBJECT: DANIEL LOUIS SCHORR
SPECIAL INQUIRY - WHITE HOUSE

This morning John W. Dean III, Counsel to the President, requested to see _____ on an urgent matter. He was contacted immediately. Dean advised that Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D-NC), is pressing ahead with his inquiry into the investigation of Schorr, the Columbia Broadcasting System Washington correspondent, concerning whom we initiated investigation on 8-19-71 at the request of The White House. Dean advised that Clark MacGregor, Counsel to the President for Congressional Relations had gone to see Ervin and asked him in effect "what would call him off." MacGregor told Ervin that it was his understanding that Schorr had been contacted by the FBI at the outset of the investigation and was aware that he was being investigated. Ervin indicated to MacGregor that in the past, situations have arisen in which the FBI has presented the facts to him which have fully satisfied his interest in a particular matter. MacGregor and Dean are of the opinion that if the FBI would furnish the facts as they actually occurred in this situation to Ervin, the matter would be dropped. Dean asked if the FBI could contact Senator Ervin and furnish him the facts essentially as we had previously furnished them to Dean by letter dated 12-20-71 setting forth the chronology of events in this case.

[redacted] advised Dean that the FBI is in receipt of a letter from Senator Ervin asking for this information. (This is being handled separately by memorandum Martin to Cleveland, 1-26-72). Dean feels that a letter to Ervin simply stating the facts might well close this matter as far as Ervin is concerned. Dean said that in view of the extreme sensitivity of this matter to The White House, the White House would like to have the opportunity to review our letter to Ervin before it is sent. He was advised that the Director has already instructed that this be done.

ACTION:

For information. See memorandum and letter to Senator Ervin attached. If approved, [redacted] will clear the letter with John Dean at White House, prior to its delivery [redacted] to Senator Ervin.

17
January 27, 1972

BY LIAISON

Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Chairman
Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 24, 1972, regarding the investigation of Mr. Daniel Louis Schorr.

Investigation of Mr. Schorr was requested on August 19, 1971, by a member of the White House staff, authorized to request federal personnel background investigations. The investigation was referred to our field offices, but no inquiries were conducted until the morning of August 20, 1971. Mr. Schorr was contacted at approximately 8:30 a.m. on August 20, 1971, to obtain appropriate background data. He was informed of the investigation and later that morning made background data available to us. At approximately 3:00 p.m. on the same day, we learned from officials of the Columbia Broadcasting System that Mr. Schorr desired the investigation to be discontinued. The investigation was discontinued at approximately that hour pursuant to instructions from the White House. Prior to the discontinuance of our investigation, twenty-five persons were interviewed concerning Mr. Schorr.

This Bureau was not specifically requested by the White House to obtain any particular type of information during the investigation. The investigation was requested as a routine background investigation for possible federal appointment in which we make inquiries regarding a person's general character, loyalty, general standing, and ability.

18 FEB 29 1972

The incomplete investigation of Mr. Schorr was entirely favorable concerning him and the results were furnished to the White House.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. STAFFORD

Daniel J. Schorr

January 27, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter dated today which I have sent to Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Chairman, Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate. This was discussed with Honorable H. R. Haldeman and Honorable John W. Dean III of the White House.

Respectfully,

J. ERICK HEWITT

John Erick Hewitt
Attala County Doctor

Enclosure

SAM J. ERVIN, JR.
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 3, 1972

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On yesterday, I was astounded at what was reported to be a news article in the Washington Post which stated that on the previous day I stated during the course of an investigation into the Daniel Schorr matter that I intended to propose some legislation to limit the activities of the FBI. On yesterday morning, the Subcommittee resumed the hearings, and I made a statement on this subject, a copy of which I enclose.

The entire article seemed to be based on inferences drawn from a mere remark on my part that I did not think that any person in the Executive Branch of the service should ask the FBI to make an investigation of the qualifications of any man for appointment to a public office unless such official first ascertained from such individual that he would accept such office if offered, and advise the official that an investigation was being made in connection with the prospective appointment.

The FBI certainly did not do anything except its legal duty in initiating the investigation of Mr. Schorr at the instance of some official in the White House.

With all kind wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

ST-118

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

SJE:mm
Enclosure

OPENING REMARKS BY SENATOR SAM J. ERVIN, JR.
FREE PRESS HEARINGS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1972

Yesterday during the hearings conducted by the Committee I made certain oral statements. There is always a hazard in making an oral statement. The hazard is two-fold. A person who makes an oral statement may not express himself correctly or he may not be correctly understood by some of his hearers. I notice certain statements attributed (to me in this morning's newspapers). If I made any remarks justifying those statements, they certainly were inadvertently made.

I did not blame the FBI in any way for its investigation of CBS commentator Daniel Schorr. I don't think Mr. Schorr criticized the FBI in any way in respect to that investigation. Under the laws and executive orders, the FBI is an agency of the Executive branch of the Federal government and it is required to make investigations whenever it is ordered to do so, either by the President as the head of the executive branch of the government or by any person who is authorized to speak for the President, and likewise when requested by the Department of Justice.

The FBI merely performed its duties (in this case). I accept at face value the statement of Mr. J. Edgar Hoover that the FBI was requested by a properly authorized person in the White House to make the investigation of Mr. Schorr with a view to determining his fitness from the standpoint of character and loyalty to fill some possible Federal office which was not designated to the FBI or to anybody else. I do agree with Mr. Schorr's observation that before any official who is authorized by the Executive Department to request the FBI to make an investigation to determine fitness

for appointment to federal office of any person ()
that official before requesting the FBI to make the investigation
should inform the person being investigated of the investigation
and of the objective of the investigation, and should inform that
person further of the office for which he is being considered.

With due respect to everybody concerned, I think there is
a certain amount of stupidity in investigating a man's fitness for
appointment to federal office without first consulting that individual
and ascertaining that he would accept the office if it is offered to
him. But the FBI was not responsible in any way for that stupidity.

Now the FBI performs a most important function in our
country. In the first place, it is necessary for the appointive
power of the Federal government to ascertain the loyalty and fitness
of an American for an appointment to a public office. And so the
FBI merely does its duty when requested to make such an investigation
by a proper official.

Furthermore, the FBI is authorized to make investigations
at the request of the Department of Justice, and the Department of
Justice is justified in making those requests, whenever they have
information which indicates to them that some individual or some
group has violated the law or is about to violate the law.

Now, if we had a law that said that the FBI and other law
enforcement agencies of government, Federal or state, couldn't

investigate a person or group to ascertain whether circumstances reasonably indicated he or they were about to violate the law or had violated the law, unless it was first established that they were going to find by the investigation that the person or group had violated the law or was about to do it, there couldn't be any investigations at all. And so if the government undertakes -- undertakes to investigate a charge that I have violated the law or am about to violate the law, they may wind up with a finding after an investigation that I hadn't violated the law and wasn't about to violate the law. (But they'd have to investigate first.)

I just wanted to make these remarks to clarify this situation and to defuse any emotions which might have resulted from anything I inadvertently said or inadvertently was suspected of having said yesterday.